Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 3, 7, 11, 13 and 14, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein; and amend Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 12, as follows.

1.   (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

~~a discrimination unit for discriminating a type of object contained in input data; and~~

a determination unit for determining whether or not a toner application rate for an object contained in input data exceeds a predefined toner reduction rate if the type of the object is formed uniformly of a designated color;

a processing unit for applying reduction processing to the designated color of the object so that the toner application rate falls within the predefined toner reduction rate when it is determined that the toner application rate on the object exceeds the predefined toner reduction rate; and ~~a thin line contained in a graphical object using a result of discrimination by said discrimination unit,~~

~~wherein the reduction processing reduces, based upon a specified value, an amount of colorant forming the thin line contained in the graphical object to a first amount of the colorant, and~~

~~wherein the reduction processing reduces an amount of colorant forming the thin line contained in the graphical object to a second amount of the colorant that is less than the first amount, when a thin-line correction mode is turned on based upon a user instruction~~

a rasterizing unit for rasterizing the object using the color obtained by applying the reduction processing to the designated color.

Claims 2 and 3 (Cancelled).

4.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ~~determination~~ discrimination unit determines ~~discriminates~~ the type of object based upon an instruction contained in image data described in page description language.

5.   (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising:

~~a discrimination step of discriminating a type of object contained in input data; and~~

a determination step of determining whether or not a toner application rate for an object contained in input data exceeds a predefined toner reduction rate if the type of the object is formed uniformly of a designated color;

a processing step of applying reduction processing to the designated color of the object so that the toner application rate falls within the predefined toner reduction rate when it is determined that the toner application rate on the object exceeds the predefined toner reduction rate; and ~~a thin line contained in a graphical object using a result of discrimination by said discrimination unit,~~

~~wherein the reduction processing reduces, based upon a specified value, an amount of colorant forming the thin line contained in the graphical object to a first amount of the colorant, and~~

~~wherein the reduction processing reduces an amount of colorant forming the thin line contained in the graphical object to a second amount of the colorant that is less than the first amount, when a thin-line correction mode is turned on based upon a user instruction~~

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a rasterizing step of rasterizing the object using the color obtained by applying the reduction processing to the designated color.

Claims 6 and 7 (Cancelled).

8.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein said determination discrimination step determines discriminates the type of object based upon an instruction contained in image data described in page description language.

9.   (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer-readable medium for instructing a computer to execute an image forming method, said method comprising:

a discrimination step of discriminating a type of object contained in input data; and

a determination step of determining whether or not a toner application rate for an object contained in input data exceeds a predefined toner reduction rate if the type of the object is formed uniformly of a designated color;

a processing step of applying reduction processing to the designated color of the object so that the toner application rate falls within the predefined toner reduction rate when it is determined that the toner application rate on the object exceeds the predefined toner reduction rate; and a thin line contained in a graphical object using a result of discrimination by said discrimination unit,

wherein the reduction processing reduces, based upon a specified value, an amount of colorant forming the thin line contained in the graphical object to a first amount of the colorant, and

wherein the reduction processing reduces an amount of colorant forming the thin line contained in the graphical object to a second amount of the colorant that is less than the first amount, when a thin-line correction mode is turned on based upon a user instruction a rasterizing step of rasterizing the object using the color obtained by applying the reduction processing to the designated color.

Claims 10 and 11 (Cancelled).

12.   (Currently Amended) The computer program stored on computer-readable medium for instructing a computer to execute an image forming method according to claim 9, wherein said determination discrimination step determines discriminates the type of object based upon an instruction contained in image data described in page description language.

Claims 13 and 14 (Cancelled)